Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the original claim set with the following replacement claim set.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for searching a database in an information retrieval system according to user-identified geographical location information using a ~~mobile~~ communications device operating on a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

creating a database for storing at least geographical location information for each of a plurality of items of interest;

receiving geographical location information corresponding to a location of a user's ~~mobile~~ communications device;

receiving a search request from the user;

detecting whether the request is to search the database for items of interest located in a vicinity of the geographical location of the user's ~~mobile~~ communications device or of a different geographical location identified by the user, wherein information regarding the different geographical location is pre-configured by the user at a prior time~~, by orally creating a specified name using the mobile communication device and associating the specified name with the different geographical location while the user is in the different geographical location~~; and

generating a search query for items of interest only within a ~~radial distance~~ certain geographical proximity of the geographical location identified by the user.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of searching a database according to claim 1, wherein the geographical location of the user's ~~mobile~~ communications device corresponds to the present location of the user's ~~mobile~~ communications device.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of searching a database according to claim 2 wherein the <u>user's communications device comprises a mobile communications device, and the</u> geographical location information of the user's mobile communications device is determined by triangulation of control signal strength received at cell towers surrounding the user's communication device.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for searching a database according to claim 2, wherein the <u>user's communications device comprises a mobile communications device, and the</u> geographical location information of the user's mobile communications device is determined by a GPS receiver within the user's communication device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for searching a database according to claim 1, ~~further comprising the steps of~~ <u>wherein the step of generating a search query comprises</u> calculating a radial distance surrounding the specified geographical location, and searching for items of interest at geographical locations within the calculated radial distance.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for searching a database according to claim 1, wherein the <u>user's communications device comprises a mobile communications device, and the</u> different geographical location specified by the user is a previous location of the user's mobile communications device.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for searching a database according to claim 1, wherein the <u>user's communications device comprises a mobile communications device, and the</u> different geographical location specified by the user is a location known to the system and is then personalized by the user for a future search as a personalized landmark for a radial search.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for searching a database according to claim ~~6~~ <u>28</u>, wherein orally creating the specified name further comprises the steps of:

    receiving a name specified by the user for the specified geographical location;

    storing the specified name and corresponding geographical location information as an entry in a locations table; and

    upon receiving a request to search for items of interest in the vicinity of a geographical location specified by name,

    (i)   searching the locations table for the specified name, and

    (ii)   providing the geographical location information corresponding to the specified name in a search query.

9. (Original) The method for searching a database according to claim 8, further comprising the step of digitally encoding an audio speech signal of the specified name, wherein the digitally encoded signal identifies a specific location and is stored in the locations table.

10. (Original) The method for searching a database according to claim 8, wherein the user pre-configures the locations table with geographical locations at which the user intends to search.

11. (Original) The method for searching a database according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

requesting a user identification before storing a specified name and corresponding location information in the locations table; and

requesting a user identification before searching the locations table,

wherein the specified names and corresponding locations are stored according to the user identification.

12. (Previously presented) An information retrieval system for identifying items of interest located within a vicinity of a user-specified geographical location, comprising:

    (a)   a database records unit for storing a plurality of information about a plurality of items of interest, including a name of each item of interest search, criteria associated with each item of interest, and a corresponding geographical location for each item of interest;

    (b)   a geographic locations processor for receiving a user-defined geographical location for searching the database records unit, said user-defined geographical location being pre-configured by the user at a prior time, by orally creating a specified name using a mobile communication device and associating the specified name with a geographical location while the user is in the geographical location; and

    (c)   a database index for generating a search query including the user-defined geographical location.

13. (Previously presented) The information retrieval system according to claim 12, further comprising a question generator table for prompting a user to provide a user-defined geographical location for searching the database records unit.

14. (Original) The information retrieval system according to claim 13, wherein the question generator table provides digitized audio speech signals as prompts to a user's mobile communications device.

15. (Original) The information retrieval system according to claim 14, wherein the information retrieval system digitally encodes responses to the prompts to create the search query in the database index.

16. (Previously presented) The information retrieval system according to claim 12, wherein the geographic locations processor processes user-defined location information provided by a user's mobile communications device, upon receiving an indication from the user, and provides location information to a database index for generating a search query.

17. (Previously presented) The information retrieval system according to claim 16, further comprising:

a geographic locations name encoder for receiving and encoding user-defined geographic location names corresponding to geographical location information provided by a user's mobile communications device; and

a geographic location database for storing encoded user-defined geographical location names and corresponding geographical location information provided by users for future database searches.

18-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New)   The method as in Claim 1, wherein the step of detecting comprises orally creating a specified name using a mobile communications device and associating the specified name with the different geographical location while the user is in the different geographical location.

29. (New)   The method as in Claim 1, wherein the geographical proximity is a radial distance relative to the geographical location identified by the user.